

EZRA BENEDICT FANCHER, b. Patterson, N. Y., Nov. 9, 1810; Union Col. 1835; Aub. 1835-6, and 1837-9; m. Lucetta McGraw, McGrwville, N. Y., 1842; ord. McGrawville, Cortland Presb., July, 1841; labored there 27 yrs., until death d. do., Jan. 27, 1867.

From: Auburn Theological Seminary Catalogue
p. 73
Class of 1839 in Auburn Seminary

Fancher, Ezra B.

5/4/1835

"There are many men who are like 'singed bats' - much better than they appear to be - of this number may be Ezra B. Fancher." not "over and above" smart-

Pearson Diaries, V.2, pp.105-106

EZRA BENEDICT FANCHER

Was born in Patterson, New York, Nov. 9, 1810. He attended the Academy at Richfield, and subsequently at Cherry Valley, New York, and entered Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., where he was graduated in 1835, and soon after commenced the study of divinity in the Theological Seminary, Auburn, N. Y., where he finished his course and was licensed by Cortland Presbytery in March, 1840; he accepted a call from the church at M'Grawville, New York, and was ordained in July, 1841, by the Cortland Presbytery. This relation existed during his life, and though frequently called to other fields, he felt it his duty and privilege to remain with the people of his first love.

His sickness immediately preceding his death was severe and brief. He had been laid aside the year before, suffering partial paralysis, and proposed to withdraw from his field of labor, but his people, who loved him as children a father, preferred to furnish him with means to travel and recuperate. Accordingly he went abroad, and by relaxation and change of scene came back invigorated and with great hopefulness to his work. He was looking forward to another general revival, was very earnest and strong in faith, and felt greatly encouraged during the week of prayer. Hence he did not realize till Saturday night that his sickness was to be fatal. But when he became convinced that his work was really done, he felt that Jesus whom he had loved and honored so long was "just the same precious Saviour as ever," and exclaimed, "Glory be to God in the highest," thus beginning the angelic song before his spirit quite forsook its clay. He died at his residence in M'Grawville, N. Y., Jan. 27, 1867, of paralysis. His widow and six children survive him.

Rev. Samuel F. Bacon, of Cortland, N. Y., who preached his funeral sermon, says:

"He was greatly beloved on account of his personal qualities by a large circle of friends extending far beyond the limits of his own parish. He was a very judicious, devoted and efficient member of Presbytery, and his brethren in the ministry are among the most afflicted of the many who now mourn his loss. He loved the Presbyterian Church as his own mother.

"For a whole generation he has labored on, becoming at last the patriarch of his Presbytery, there being only one member remaining who belonged to it when he was ordained. He was a very valuable and beloved presbyter, having the affection and confidence of the brethren in a remarkable degree. I wonder not at his dear people loving him. There was a gentleness, a quiet dignity, a modest manliness, pervaded by a love of the Saviour shining in his very countenance, that won the heart. His sickness was short but painful, and when he knew his end was near he commended himself to God in prayer, leaving all things in his hands. On being asked if Jesus was the same precious Saviour as ever, he replied, 'Oh yes, the same as ever, glory be to God in the highest!' and thus he died on Sabbath morning. Just as his people were repairing to the sanctuary, expecting to hear him preach, he was not, for God had taken him."

Rev. Ezra Benedict Fancher was born in Patterson, N. Y., Nov. 9, 1810, and educated at Richfield and Cherry Valley Academies and Union College (class of 1835,) and Auburn Theological Seminary. In 1841 he accepted a call to McGrawville, the only pastorate he ever held, and continued there for twenty-seven years and until his removal by death. He was loved as widely as he was known. His gentleness and modesty, and at the same time his dignity and manliness, his good sense and activity and industry, his blamelessness and faithfulness and tact, all set off by his intelligent and benignant face and attractive mein, endeared him especially to his people, and growing with increasing years in the esteem of his fellow Presbyters, and familiar with ecclesiastical proceedings and skillful in conducting them, he was looked up to as an adviser and leader in the Judicatories to which he belonged, and became a revered and guiding patriarch to his ministerial brethren. His fatal sickness was short, but distressing, and he bore it without resistance or complaint, and when death brought its summons, he went cheerfully ever to be with the Lord. Asked if the Saviour was precious as ever? "Oh, yes," he replied, "the same as ever. Glory be to God in the highest!" He died on Sunday morning just as his congregation were assembling where he had so often met them, and where they were expecting to hear him again. The Cortland Presbytery, of which he was a member, put on record a full and affecting expression of their feelings at his death, describing him as so constant in attending its sessions, and so conversant with Presbyterian rules and usages, as to contribute greatly to the correctness and despatch of business, "while his holy unction" was a sweet and sacred anointing in devotional meetings and spiritual exercises.

Presbyterianism in Central New York
p. 535
P. H. Fowler
Utica, N. Y.
1877.

Cyra Benedict ^{Fancher} Fancher AB. 1835

J. F. Fancher 1835
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